

Appln. No. 09/905,722

Amendment Date: August 21, 2005

Reply to Office Action of April 21, 2005

Page 48

REMARKS

The Examiner has stated that the drawings of record number only four figures rather than 17 figures as indicated in the brief description of the drawings in the specification. The four figures submitted on 05/24/2001 were part of Provisional Application No. 60/293,423 filed on that date. A Petition to Convert the provisional application to a Regular application was filed on 05/22/2002 and included 14 sheets of drawing with 17 figures thereon. The Petition was granted June 11, 2002 in a letter to Applicants' Attorney signed by Janice Tippet, Program Assistant, Office of Initial Patent Examination, Labeled "Paper #3". Further the letter provided the serial number of this case as 09/905,722. Accordingly, the Examiner's file should include 17 figures on 14 sheets of drawing as submitted on May 22, 2002.

Nevertheless, in order to expedite the prosecution of this case, Applicant submits herewith exact copies of the 14 sheets of drawing including 17 figures thereon, as filed originally on 05/22/2002. Each sheet is labeled "Replacement Sheet". It should be noted that no changes or amendments have been made in these replacement sheets.

Appln. No. 09/905,722

Amendment Date: August 21, 2005

Reply to Office Action of April 21, 2005

Page 49

The Abstract has been amended to a narrative form in a clear and concise manner and to avoid the use of "disclosed" therein.

The claims have been amended to adopt the Examiner's suggestions and avoid existing informalities, indefinite language and lack of antecedent basis. In addition, care has been taken to review the entire set of claims to correct errors in recitation and ensure that elements are set forth in dependent claims as new or relate to antecedents in preceding claims.

Claim 103 has been cancelled to avoid its redundancy with claim 52.

It is respectfully believed the present amendments overcome and avoid the rejections under 35 USC Section 112, comply with the written description of the invention and enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention.

Applicant notes the disclosure of Agarosi et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,600,794) as pertinent, but not relied upon, to Applicants' disclosure and appreciates the Examiner's determination in this regard.

Appln. No. 09/905,722

Amendment Date: August 21, 2005

Reply to Office Action of April 21, 2005

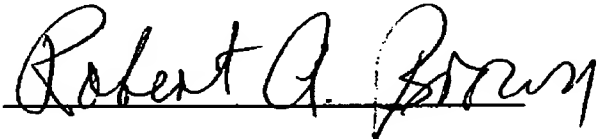
Page 50

Applicants contend the amended independent claims 1, 52, 53 along with appropriate amendments to various claims dependent thereon place this case in allowable form. Accordingly, the Examiner's reconsideration and early allowance are respectfully solicited.

Applicants' Attorney may be reached at 847/272-3182, or 847/272-3176, or FAX 847/272-5424, if the need arises for any further discussion in connection with the matters at hand.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK PATRICK BOLOGNA, et al.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Brown", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert A. Brown, Reg. No. 26,149

P. O. Box 2127

Northbrook, Illinois 60065-2127

FAX: 571-273-8300 - 64 Pages